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impregnating each of the bearing element plurality of layers with a polyimide resin comprising polytetrafluoroethylene powder.

Concluded

13. (once amended) A method in accordance with Claim 11 wherein said step of forming a plurality of layers further comprises the steps of:

forming a first layer comprising the first material;

forming a second layer comprising the second material; and

forming a third layer comprising the first material.

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REMARKS

The Office Action mailed April 9, 2003 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof. Submitted herewith is a Submission of Marked Up Claims.

Claims 11, 13-15, and 17-20 are pending in this application. Claims 11, 13-15, and 17-20 stand rejected.

The rejection of Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,781,205 to Cairns et al. is respectfully traversed.

Cairns et al. describe a composite bearing structure including a backing member to which there is secured a high tensile strength, dimensionally stable bearing surface layer. The bearing surface layer includes a solid lubricant and fibers of a material characterized by a heat distortion temperature exceeding that of polytetrafluoroethylene and selected from aromatic polyamides, carbon, graphite, aromatic polysulfones, aromatic polyimides, and aromatic polyester-imides. The solid lubricant is selected from the sulfides, selenides and tellurides of molybdenum, tungsten, and titanium, lead dioxide, boron nitride, and carbon, graphite, or PTFE.

Claim 11 recites a method for manufacturing a bearing element, the method comprising the steps of "forming a plurality of layers from a combination of a first material and a second